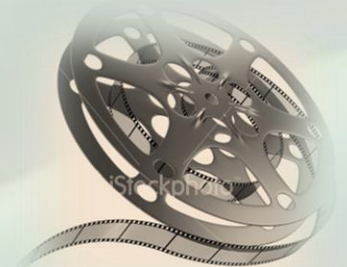# State of Libraries in Kenya

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By

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Principal Kenya library sectors

Outline

❖ Kenya

❖ The National Library

❖ Public Libraries

❖ School Libraries

❖ Special Libraries

❖ Academic Libraries

❖ Consortium & Library Association in Kenya

About Kenya

- Kenya is a country in East Africa with a coastline on the Indian Ocean.

- A population of 53.01m as per 2021.

- Swahili (National language)and English (Official language).

- 47 County Governments.

- 50 National parks and reserves.

Library Services in Kenya

- The Library Services in Kenya comprises different Library systems.

- These library systems are guided by different objectives among them being the information needs of their users.

- These libraries are funded, operationalized, and managed by various agencies.

The National Library

- Established by the Government to collect, organize and preserve the country's documentary heritage, national imprint and make it available for access

- 64 branch libraries have been established in thirty-three counties

Services include	
Issuance of ISBN	KNLS Kids Space
Mobile Library Services	Outreach Services
Braille Library Services	Research & Consultancy
Training Programs	Legal Deposit

5000 Sitter Kenya National Library Services, Nairobi

Public libraries

- Libraries established, maintained, and managed by either the County, National Government, non-governmental organization, community, or private person open to members of the public.

- Provides access to knowledge, information, cultural activities, reading activities, and lifelong education to the public.

- Operated by the Kenya National Library Services Board

- Others are managed by the Nairobi City County, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Community Based organizations.
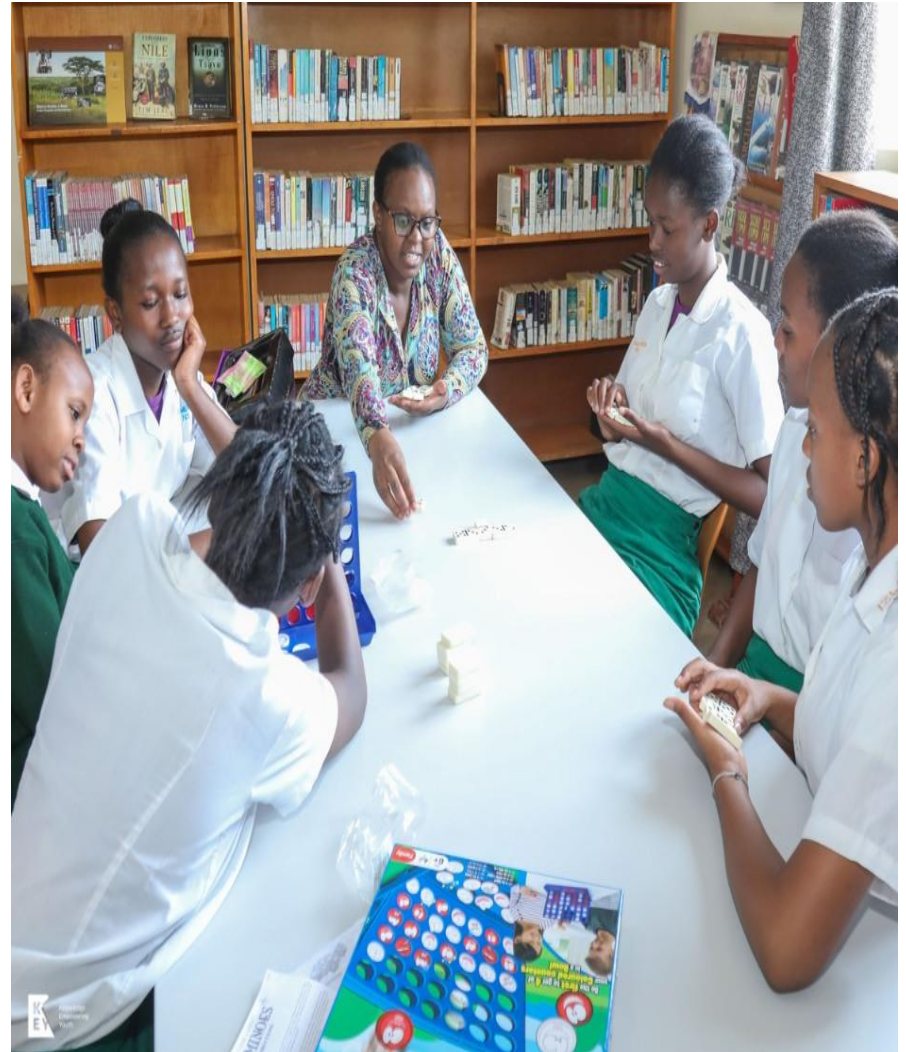
Public libraries

- The earliest public library in Kenya was Sir Seif Bin Salim Public Library and Reading Room (1903)

- The second one was the MacMillan Memorial Library (1931)

- It was put up by Lady MacMillan in memory of her late husband, Sir Northrup MacMillan

School libraries

- Established and managed by a school to offer various sources of information and resources to the school community.

- In Kenya, school libraries are established by respective schools and donors and operated by respective schools.

Special libraries

- Aims at providing specialized library service to the staff of the agency or organization that has established them, or to the public.

- Include those in:
  - ❖ Government ministries, departments, and agencies
  - ❖ Legislature
  - ❖ Judiciary
  - ❖ Research institutions
  - ❖ Foreign missions
  - ❖ International agencies
  - ❖ Private institutions

Academic libraries:

- Academic libraries in Kenya are established to assist institutions of higher learning and tertiary institutions to fulfil the core mandate of teaching, learning, research, and extension services

- They are regulated by the Commission of University Education (CUE) for university libraries and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) for tertiary and vocational institutions

Kenyatta University, Post Modern Library, Nairobi

United States International University - Africa, Nairobi

Catholic University of Eastern Africa, fully automated library.

Aga Khan University Library, Nairobi

Academic libraries and electronic resources

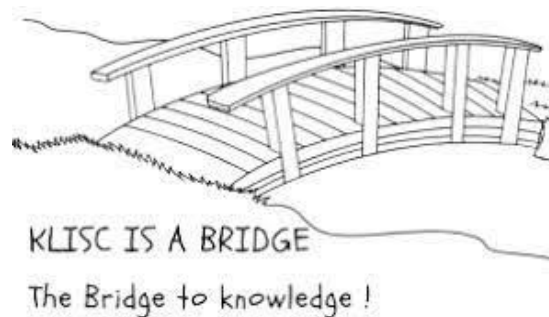High levels of consumption of scholarly information

Changes in formats (print to electronic resources) have affected resource management

Kenyan academic libraries have formed a consortium to deal with challenges associated with electronic resources

Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium

- Established in 2003 with the main objective of collective subscription to electronic resources to cope with the increasing cost of information resources

- Draws membership from University Libraries, Research institutions, and Public/National Libraries

KLISC IS A BRIDGE

The Bridge to knowledge !

The professional body: Kenya Library Association

https://kenyalibraryassociation.or.ke/

- Strives to become a leading professional body for librarians, information specialists, and knowledge managers in the region

- Represents professional concerns with information work in Kenya in accordance with international professional standards

- Promotes the growth, development and professional integrity of its members

- Will host the SCECSAL 2024 conference from 21st to 27th April 2024 in Mombasa, Kenya

Pride Inn Paradise Mombasa

Challenges affecting libraries in Kenya

- Lack of policy framework
- Weak legal frameworks
- Inadequate funding
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Poor infrastructure
- Inadequate human capital and unregulated professionalism
- Poor coordination
- Inaccessibility

- Inadequate local content in libraries
- Poor reading culture
- Lack of recognition of Library Services' roles in sustainable development
- Insecurity
- High taxation on books
- Lack of guidelines for weeding and disposal of library materials
- Low awareness of library services

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